

Monitoring Council Portals: Subcommittee Report

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Item Goals:

- 1) Discuss feedback and lessons learned for the MyWaterQuality Portals
- 2) Develop actionable recommendations—to bring back to the Council on February 23

Statement of Issue:

- 💧 The Council has considered its path forward since the Triennial Audit (2014)
- 💧 Despite evaluating *overall* “lessons learned”, little attention has been spent on the Council’s portals and how they could be improved.

Background

- MOU between CalEPA and CNRA
 - “implement a public information program on water quality that includes a website with information on water quality monitoring, assessment, research, standards, regulation, enforcement and other pertinent matters.”
- Monitoring Council’s Strategy and Portal Development
 - The central theme of each portal should be expressed as a *broad question*
 - Each portal should *inform a wide range of audiences*
 - Utilize a *question-driven user interface*
 - *Focus questions on topics of interest* to agency decision makers, legislators, and the public.
 - Portal home page and throughout the portal—*emphasize maps and graphic representations of data* and assessments

General Feedback

- Reconsider emphasis on question driven navigation
- Portals do not need to have a common look and feel—as long as the Council is branded consistently
- Update portal names and improve searchability
- Modify My Water Quality Homepage to highlight connections between portals and content.
- Allow more flexibility in audience; e.g., shift emphasis towards agency decision makers

Recommended Actions

1. Re-evaluate existing portals

Proposed Action: Council staff will form new subcommittee focused on coordinated portal improvements (meet quarterly, to start).

2. Develop updated guidance for workgroups

Proposed Action: after Council and subcommittee input (Action 1), staff will develop additional recommendations (by May 30) and updated guidance material for workgroups (by September 5).